

Chicopee Register

COMMUNITY

Citywide cleanup draws over 150 volunteers

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

CHICOPEE – Nearly 160 residents participated in the Chicopee Clean Sweep on the morning of April 24. Eight cleanup teams tackled streets, parking lots and public spaces in each of the city’s five neighborhoods.

Sponsored by the Chicopee Cultural Council, the initiative drew widespread involvement that surpassed expectations. Cultural Council Chairman Johnny Miranda led a group of 50 volunteers in Chicopee Center.

“We outlined a perimeter and, then, divided ourselves onto different streets. I think that was key to make sure that we cover every area,” said Miranda. “Every neighborhood has a captain, and we’re keeping ourselves informed on Facebook chat so technology has allowed us to be interconnected as we’re doing this.”

The Cultural Council awarded each team \$100 to be donated to local charities of their choosing.

Local businesses also played a role in the cleaning effort that spanned Chicopee’s borders, as did a variety of municipal departments.

Many residents participated in a cleanup for the first



Cultural Council Chair Johnny Miranda, far right, poses with a team of volunteers representing HB Real Estate, a Church Street-based agency.

time. Among them was Bruce Piquette, who grew up in Chicopee.

“I’ve never done this before and had the opportunity. It’s been great,” said Piquette. “Every little bit counts; what you can do on your own. Some of these rental properties; all it takes is someone walking out and picking it up and make life easier for everybody.”

The Clean Sweep was organized by Debra Suther-

land, of the Cultural Council. Sutherland took great pride in the youth participation she witnessed last Saturday.

“We’re leaving [young people] the world. To work together to show them that we’re trying, and they can help us, knowing that we’re working together and trying to better the future, it’s a very good thing,” said Sutherland.

Cleaning Memorial Drive alongside Sutherland was

12-year-old Mason Hedeem. He rated the event’s organization as, “10 out of 10,” and made it known that he will participate in future cleanups.

“I think it’s great, personally. It’s a great thing for people to see. I think you should go out and do it. Grab a [trash picker]; grab a bag. It’s fun,” said Hedeem.

Julie Copoulos, executive

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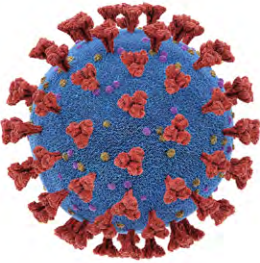
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‘Pole’ takes first
in race

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HEALTHCARE



Janice and Robert Arrison wait in line to be inoculated at the senior center on Monday morning.

Vaccines reach COA

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

CHICOPEE – Doses of the Moderna vaccine have finally reached the RiverMills Senior Center at 5 West Main St. A partnership between the city of Chicopee and Holyoke Health Center will allow for 900 individuals to get vaccinated each week.

The clinic opened at the Senior Center on the morning of April 26. The Chicopee Council on Aging has been aiding residents in getting their vaccine appointments for

months, and Monday morning’s opening marked a milestone.

“We’ve been waiting a long time for this in the city of Chicopee so we are very excited to start getting our older adults and anyone over the age of 18 vaccinated,” said COA Executive Director Sherry Manyak.

The COA completed an extensive preparation process to facilitate on-site vaccinations, which are occurring on the senior center’s lower level,

See **VACCINE** page 8

SCHOOLS

Chicopee students shine at State Bowl

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

CHICOPEE – Several of Chicopee’s brightest students put their talents on display during the 2021 Massachusetts Future Problem-Solving State Bowl, an extensive academic competition that concluded earlier this month.

For approximately two-thirds of the academic year,

middle school REACH students join a number of local high school students, participating in the district’s competitive problem-solving program.

Chicopee teachers Michael Burke and Sarah Kempey lead the charge, mentoring a number of students, who recently participated in and showcased their skills at the State Bowl.

See **STATE BOWL** page 8



Chicopee student Emily Fijal participated in the State Bowl earlier this month.

City celebrates its newest park

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

CHICOPEE – A ribbon-cutting ceremony on April 23 celebrated the city’s newest park, a site that showcases the creative spirit driving the revitalization of Chicopee Center.

The .28-acre parcel on Center Street, which formerly housed the Racing Oil Service Station, is now home to Center Park, a welcome site for downtown residents.

Center Park features a pea gravel landing, a 10-foot picnic tables and is canopied by four golden shade stalls. The park’s longevity on Center Street is uncertain; it was designed to be portable.

“The idea for the long-term vision for this space is that a developer will look at it and say, ‘That’s an awesome space; I’m going to buy it.’ They buy it, we pack everything up into that trailer and move it to another space. Then, we do the same thing again. It’s an experiment that we think will work,” said Andrea Monson, MassDevelopment’s Transformative Development Initiative fellow.

Through multiple allocations, MassDevelopment contributed a total of \$20,000 towards the creation of Center Park.

In addition to city departments and entities, residents, community leaders and business owners in Chicopee Center were integral to the achievement.

Moving forward, the park could be used to host a variety of initiatives. Businesses and food trucks will be encouraged to apply to use the space beginning in several weeks.

City Treasurer Marie Laflamme announced that Chicopee worked collaboratively with the Environmental Protection Agency’s Brownfields Cleanup Program and the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission to transform the site.

The property had been undeveloped since December 2004, after an on-site kiosk, pump islands and three underground storage tanks were removed.



Left to right are Chamber of Council Executive Director Julie Copoulos, TDI Fellow Andrea Monson, Mayor John Vieau and City Treasurer Marie Laflamme prepare to cut the ribbon Center Park last Friday.



Mayor John Vieau cuts the ribbon on Center Park at the site of the former Racing Oil Service Station on Center Street.



Members of Chicopee’s C3 Policing Unit interact with local residents and business owners during a ceremony unveiling Center Park on April 23.



TURLEY PUBLICATIONS STAFF PHOTOS BY DALTON ZBIERSKI
Julie Copoulos, executive director of the Greater Chicopee Chamber of Commerce, speaks during the opening of Center Park on April 23.

Dating back to 1987, there had been several releases of petroleum products at the site. Laflamme recalled inheriting the property, a challenging task.

“Unfortunately, when we took the project, we also took a problem; it was contaminated,” said Laflamme. “There was gasoline contamination, and, therefore, we needed to clean it up before we did anything. Once that cleanup was completed, we started on a new adventure with a new idea to help downtown.”

Mayor John Vieau took great pride in the redevelopment of the former service station. He thanked the community partners, who saw potential in the site, and applauded business owners and residents for exerting themselves to make positive change.

Vieau acknowledged that there are a series of projects occurring in Chicopee Center and is excited for what the future may bring to downtown. He believes that more and more people will soon consider the West End as an attractive location.

“When I think about Chicopee Center, it’s been awhile since someone said they were going to downtown and actually meant Chicopee. That’s starting to happen because of all the hard work that is happening here,” said Vieau. “This is only the beginning for Chicopee Center. Our center is transforming; becoming a socially-safe destination.”

Julia Copoulos, executive director of the Greater Chicopee Chamber of Commerce, also

played an important role in the park’s implementation. She coined it as a, “Swiss army knife of a park.”

Lee Pouliot, director of Planning and Development, reminded residents that Center Park is a key step forward, one of many, as the city inches closer to fulfilling its larger vision.

“The proper reuse of this site is a linchpin in the continued efforts to improve quality of life for all residents, businesses and stakeholders in the neighborhood,” said Pouliot.

Dalton Zbierski is a Staff Writer, who can be reached at dzbierski@turley.com.

COVID-19 update; Castle of Knights clinic open

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

CHICOPEE – April 29 marked the opening of the regional COVID-19 vaccine distribution site at the Castle of the Knights, located at 1599 Memorial Drive.

After nearly two months spent waiting on the delivery of state-allotted doses, the operation is now serving residents of Chicopee, Granby, Holyoke and South Hadley. Residents must book appointments prior to arriving.

On April 28, the office of Mayor John Vieau reported that there were 326 open cases of COVID-19 in the city of Chicopee. Since the onset of the pandemic, a total of 4,250 residents have suffered from COVID-19; 3,778 have since recovered.

The city is reporting a slight drop in the number of infections, as it continues to run its testing site at the upper level of the RiverMills Senior Center on West Main Street on Monday and Wednesday mornings.

Gov. Charlie Baker has announced that, on May 10, large venues, including Fenway Park and the TD Garden in Boston, can increase capacity to 25%. Road races, sports tournaments and athletic events may resume with the approval of local Health Departments.

On May 25, gatherings of 200 people indoors and 250 people outdoors will be permitted in public and private settings, as street festivals and parades with safety plans will also be allowed.

On August 1, dance clubs and nightclubs may reopen, as can saunas, hot tubs, steam fitness rooms and health clubs. On the same date, indoor water parks and ball pits may reopen, while gathering limits will be eliminated and guidance on indoor masks will be reviewed.

Dalton Zbierski is a Staff Writer, who can be reached at dzbierski@turley.com.

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Chicopee Register

Nursing students aid postpartum mothers

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

CHICOPEE – Eight students from the Elms College School of Nursing have gone above and beyond in assisting postpartum mothers who are struggling to attain critical resources.

Working in conjunction with It Takes a Village, a non-profit organization that provides free postpartum support to families in Western Massachusetts, participating students gained far more from the experience than merely reaching their clinical practicum requirements.

“Especially in hard times like these, mothers are sometimes forgotten. We wanted to help them in their time of need. They’re worrying about the pandemic and keeping their babies safe. They are a vulnerable population, and we want to get the right services to them,” said Jon Burnside, a senior at Elms College.

Joining Burnside were Elms College students Abigail Anselmo, Alyson Flahive, Rebecca Hill, Samantha Judicki, Sara Scagliarini, Nick Taylor and Courtney Urban.

Across the country, the lack of access to diapers, menstrual and hygiene products for low-income families is increasing at an alarming rate. One in three families in the United States cannot afford diapers, and families are

unable to use food stamps or WIC benefits to purchase diapers.

A lack of diapers can prevent babies from attending day-care, meaning that parents cannot attend work or school. If a baby is kept in a soiled diaper for too long, it can lead to serious medical complications.

“The whole premise around it was that we wanted to look at the family as a whole and put in as much as we could to help the whole family; mothers and babies,” said Scagliarini, a senior. “Seeing the effects of what we’re doing and how that helps people is eye-opening. It’s also incredible to be able to participate and understand how public health works instead of being in a regular clinic setting.”

Burnside and Scagliarini worked in tandem with Taylor, gathering menstrual products such as pads and tampons. Elms College staff members donated diapers and other items for younger children.

A team consisting of Anselmo, Flahive, Hill, Judicki and Urban created a developmental milestone presentation to educate parents on the milestones that their children should be reaching. The presentation included a childhood vaccine pamphlet, a COVID-19 vaccine sheet and references to other resources.

As they prepare to graduate in the coming weeks, Burnside



TURLEY PUBLICATIONS STAFF PHOTO BY DALTON ZBIERSKI

Elms College School of Nursing students Sara Scagliarini, Jon Burnside and Nick Taylor recently donated an array of menstrual products to It Takes a Village, a nonprofit organization that provides postpartum support to families in Western Massachusetts.

and Scagliarini both considered the initiative to be one of the most memorable endeavors of their college careers. The pro-

cess was certainly challenging, but the students undoubtedly rose to the occasion.

“At first, it was a little bit in-

timidating. I think that we definitely were unsure of the steps we were going to take,” said Scagliarini. “Once we got rolling it became so rewarding because it was just such a different experience than everything else. We were really just directly involved, and that was something that we’d never gotten to experience before.”

It Takes a Village supports approximately 1,500 families each year through home visits, parent groups and the distribution of free supplies.

The Village Closet, a donation center directly affiliated with the nonprofit, distributes close to 30,000 diapers each year to families throughout the region.

Burnside may not be at Elms College much longer, but he won’t soon forget one of his final projects at the school. Like Scagliarini, he plans to continue the outreach long after graduating.

“I really enjoyed working with the community and getting involved directly with the vulnerable population, getting to know them and learning about what they need,” said Burnside. “I think that was the best part of the experience; learning about the ways I can get involved in the community and, maybe, help them find what they need.”

Dalton Zbierski is a Staff Writer, who can be reached at dzbierski@turley.com.

Domestic violence abusers hotline up and running

First such hotline in the United States

By Eileen Kennedy
Staff writer

REGION – Always looking for an alternate way to address domestic violence, the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission along with other groups, have planned and started an anonymous, non-recorded help line for domestic abusers.

The PVPC is working with Behavioral Health Network and the nonprofit Growing A New Heart, as well as two rural domestic violence task forces from the Ware River Valley and the Southern Hilltowns to oversee and guide the project.

While most programs target hotlines, counseling and planning for domestic abuse victims, this new hotline, Ten to Ten, is for domestic violence abusers, and is the first such hotline in the United States, although similar programs exist in Australia and the United Kingdom.

Monica Moran, coordinator for the Ware River Valley Domestic Violence Task Force

and PVPC’s Domestic Violence Prevention Programs manager, said as domestic abuse has risen during the pandemic, she and others were looking to find another tool that could address the problem.

“There’s a national move toward restorative justice,” she said referring to the adoption of non-criminal responses to criminal behavior. “It was a way to not just to have the victim always be the one who has to do things, such as move out. We wanted to increase the options to anybody who wanted to stop abusing, and who wants their partner to be safe.”

CARES Act funding will be used as it is intended to address the impact of COVID-19, and studies across the country and the world show an increase in intimate partner violence since the pandemic started, she said. It’s not too surprising that the rates have risen, she said, because the pandemic’s physical restrictions and job losses have put more stress on families.

“The pandemic didn’t cause the abuse, but when life isn’t going well

sometimes the abusers take it out on those around them,” Moran said.

Jason Patrissi, a volunteer with the hotline, said he believes it will be effective tool for those who are already abusive or who at risk to be abusive. “They’re already one step up because they have motivation or epiphany to want it to stop,” he said.

Abusers’ belief and value systems allow them to see abuse as an approved mode of behavior, he said, and they often overestimate how many people believe the same thing.

“They’ve usually been socialized to violence,” Patrissi said. Usually the turning point comes when a partner is leaving or has left, and when it might impact how often they get to see their children.

Abusers, most of whom are men, can call the hotline without fear of being identified and ask for help, Moran said.

Patrissi stressed this is not about offering mental health

therapy, although that might be needed at some point, and it’s not about what causes abuse; it’s about changing behavior by changing one’s values.

“I’ve been working with abusive men for over 20 years, and it’s very difficult to reach self-actualization by one’s self, they need a lot of support and there isn’t a lot of it out there,” he said.

The callers, which can also be friends and family members who may be afraid a person is going to abuse their partner, or who already has, may be looking for help as well, Moran said.

The volunteers ask the abusers what their goal is and what they are willing to do to reach it, Patrissi said. They explore what’s going on with them, and in the short-term abusers can be referred to resources. such as intimate partner abuse groups. These groups are funded by the state Department of Public Health, and go for 40 weeks, with two-hour groups each

week. They meet with fellow abusers along with a facilitator on the issue of domestic abuse.

Abusers have to come to the mindset that they don’t have the right to put their hands on anyone, he said, and learn “to do no harm.”

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health is providing supplemental funding so that the Helpline can serve all of Western Massachusetts.

The Helpline will serve Western Massachusetts and will operate from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., 365 days a year. The toll-free number is 877-898-3411. Family, friends and professionals worried that someone may harm their partner can also call the Helpline.

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SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS

Can I claim my Social Security now, then switch to spouse benefits?

By Russell Gloor
Guest columnist

Dear Rusty: I am 62 and have been a homemaker for much of my adult life. I have a small Social Security account from working years ago. My husband is older, has been the major wage earner and will have a good amount in Social Security when he claims. I have been told that I should claim my Social Security now. It's a small amount, about \$475 per month if I claim it now, and \$550 after I'm age 66, so it's not a life changing difference. But if I claim mine now, when my husband reaches his full retirement age can I switch to claiming spousal benefits on his account? I understand I would no longer get mine, but I'm pretty sure my benefit from him will be a much larger amount. Signed: Inquiring Homemaker

Dear Inquiring Homemaker: The simple answer to your question is: yes, if you claim your own small benefit now you can later switch to a higher spouse benefit from your husband when he claims his Social Security. But there are always consequences for claiming Social Security benefits early. The maximum spousal benefit you can get from your husband is 50% of the benefit amount he is entitled to at his own full retirement age. But you only get that full 50% if you delay claiming your own Social Security until you reach your own FRA.

That doesn't mean you can't claim your own reduced benefit early, but it means that when you later get your spousal benefit, it will be less than 50% of your husband's FRA benefit amount. And here's why: Your spouse benefit, when you receive it, will consist of your own earned benefit plus a spousal boost to bring you to your spousal entitlement. Your spousal boost will be the difference between your FRA benefit amount (regardless of when you claim) and half of your husband's FRA benefit amount, and it will be reduced if you haven't yet reached your FRA when your husband claims. That reduced spousal boost will be added to your own actual benefit (reduced if you claim at 62), which will yield a spouse benefit less than 50% of your husband's FRA benefit. Said another way, when your husband claims at his FRA, you'll get a reduced spousal boost added to your own already reduced age 62 Social Security retirement benefit. I can't put this into dollar terms for you without knowing your husband's FRA benefit amount.

FYI, if your age 62 benefit amount is \$475 then your personal benefit amount at your FRA should be about \$670. Essentially, the longer you wait to claim your own Social Security, the more your spousal benefit will be because the spousal boost will be added to the benefit you're already receiving. Your spousal benefit reaches maximum (which is 50% of your husband's FRA amount) at your FRA but remember that your husband must be collecting his Social Security for you to claim a spouse benefit.

So, here's the bottom line: you can claim your own Social Security at age 62, but the benefit amount you get will be reduced by 29%. If your husband claims at his FRA, you will get a spousal boost at that time, but the amount of the spousal boost will be reduced because you will not have reached your FRA at that time. The only way you will get the full 50% of your husband's FRA benefit amount is by waiting until your own FRA to claim Social Security. However, since your spousal benefit will be the highest amount available to you, waiting and claiming yours at the same time your husband claims his, would also be a prudent strategy to lessen the "penalty" for claiming your benefits early.

See **SOCIAL SECURITY** page 5

GUEST COLUMN

How to plant a bare root apple tree

Sometimes I wish I had bought for the land and not for the house. In my dreams, I'd have a field big enough to grow all the pumpkins a girl could want, and a sunny slope to have an amazing orchard of heirloom apple trees. Maybe someday, but for now I squeeze in apple trees here and apple trees there. One outside the chicken coop. Three in the perennial border. And as of this past weekend two more near the clothesline. Read on to see how I did it.

Planting a tree is not like planting a bush or a perennial plant. Should you make a mistake about the placement of those you can easily dig them up and move them. I think my parents moved their blueberries twice without injury to the bushes. Trees are a whole different story; you want to do it right the first time.

I was home all day on Friday, scoping out the yard. You think you know where the sunny spots are; fruit trees want at least six hours of full sun, until you document it by the hour. Overhead trees are not leafed out yet, so that has to be taken into consideration, but even so, one area I assumed to be sunny was actually in shade most of the day; another area was just the opposite. Voilà! It is a perfect spot for the fruit trees!

I then began to fret that the soil there would not be good enough, and without any finished compost on hand to amend the hole, my planting would be delayed even further. Lucky for me adding lots of peat or compost to the planting hole is old advice. These days we want the roots to extend far beyond the original hole. If the soil is too good there the roots will never want to leave. This way, over the long-term, they will go looking for nourishment and anchor themselves into the surrounding soil.

I began the task of digging a three foot wide by two foot deep hole. I shook the sod and placed it in a clump for the compost pile. The topsoil was put on plastic in one spot and

the subsoil in another. Large rocks were discarded. Happily, I did have some rock phosphate left on hand from last fall. I sprinkled one cup, and found out later that one pound was the recommendation! in the planting hole and scratched it in. It will aid in root development. I also took my shovel and loosed the "walls" of the hole to make it easier for the roots to penetrate as they spread.

Most grafted trees should be planted with the graft union two to three inches above the soil line. I positioned the bare-root tree in the hole and made a quick measurement with a stick across the hole. The graft union was too deep, so I mounded a little soil under the roots. That adjustment brought the tree to the correct depth. I dumped some water in

next to collapse air pockets and then shoveled in the topsoil. Experts recommend that you backfill the hole with topsoil first, it is more friable, and then place the subsoil elsewhere in the hole, tamping down as you go, with your feet.

I made a basin around the tree after I was finished, a slightly sunken area to catch water. Eventually I will add a layer of compost on top and apply some mulch in the form of shredded bark or hay to create a happy environment for all of the "feeder" roots. If Mother Nature doesn't provide at least an inch of rain per week I will trickle water slowly into the basin twice a week to help establish the tree.

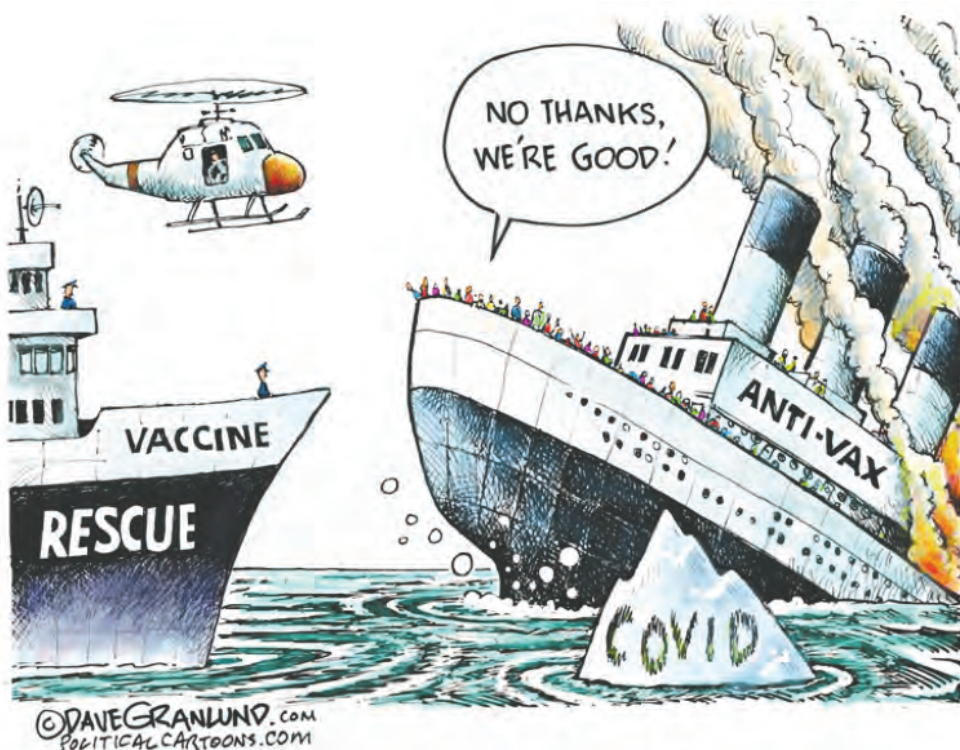
Although a few years will pass before I pick those first fruits, hopefully proper planting will ensure years of fruitfulness.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

IN THE GARDEN



Roberta McQuaid
Columnist



Letters to the Editor

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sonal attacks, defamation of character and offensive language. All unknown or alleged facts and quotations offered by the author need to cite credible, unbiased sources.

Send letters to: *The Chicopee Register*, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069 or email chicopeeregister@turley.com.

The deadline for submissions is Friday at noon.

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IN THE CITY



At Ray Ash Park a spirited group of volunteers poses next to a large collection of trash.



COURTESY PHOTOS BY CHICOPEE FIRE LT.
Twelve-year-old Mason Hedeon, Melissa Hedeon and Debra Sutherland clean along Memorial Drive on April 24.



Left to right Miss Pioneer Valley Caroline Holladay poses with Chicopee Colleen Court members Meghan Kalbaugh and Karoline Kraus during the Chicopee Clean Sweep on April 24.



Approximately 50 volunteers contributed to the Chicopee Clean Sweep at Chicopee Center last Saturday.
Clean up photo 7: The city is as clean as it has been in months, thanks to the Chicopee Clean Sweep on April 24.



COURTESY PHOTOS BY JOHNNY MIRANDA
Miss Pioneer Valley Caroline Holladay contributes to massive trash pile during the Chicopee Clean Sweep last Saturday.



TURLEY PUBLICATIONS STAFF PHOTOS BY DALTON ZBIERSKI

CLEAN UP from page 1

director of the Chicopee Chamber of Commerce, spent her morning in the city's Aldenville neighborhood.

At Ray Ash Park, Copoulos worked alongside a dozen volunteers, including students from Chicopee Comprehensive High School. She pondered how many volunteers in Chicopee were

cleaning simultaneously.

"I can't even imagine how many people are cleaning up around the city right now," said Copoulos. "One of the things I love most about Chicopee is that people who live here and work here love the city and feel like their identity is tied to it. They just want to make it a better place."

Sutherland is optimistic that future cleanups will occur with

the assistance of the Cultural Council.

Miranda said some residents would like to see a cleanup occur on a monthly basis; others implored local businesses to better maintain their properties and parking lots.

Similar to Sutherland, Miranda was

inspired by the children and teenagers who dedicated a Saturday morning to cleaning the city.

"Some of the residents have brought their kids along. It's important for them to see this be-

cause that helps them to care. Instilling those values in them early on so that later on they appreciate their surroundings," said Miranda.

SOCIAL SECURITY from page 4

One final caution: Any time Social Security benefits are claimed early (before FRA) there is an "earnings test" which limits how much can be earned from working before Social Security takes back some benefits. Please keep this in mind if you should decide to go back to work at any time before you reach your full retirement age.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents

the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

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Sports

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COLLEGE NOTE

Nolan Florence making contributions for WSU

WESTFIELD – Westfield State senior pitcher Nate Langmeier (East Granby, Conn.) tossed a complete game shutout in game two, and the Owls got home runs from Casey Boudreau and Ethan Day as Westfield swept Bridgewater State in a non-conference baseball doubleheader by scores, of 5-3 and 8-0.

In the opener, Westfield (14-1) struck for four runs in the top of the first, three on a home run from Ethan Day (Meriden, Conn./Lyman Hall), his third of the season.

In the second inning, the Owls added a run when Steve

Saucier (Auburn, Mass.) doubled, moved to third on Damien Maniscalco's (Branford, Conn.) bunt single, and scored on base it from Zack Graveline that put Westfield up 5-0.

Bridgewater (8-13) got a single run back in the fourth on Kyle Suraci's (Clinton, CT/Morgan School) pinch-hit single, then added pair in the seventh, getting an RBI single from Colin Josselyn (Hanson, Mass./Whitman-Hanson).

Owls' starter Vincenzo Camera (2-1) (East Haven, Conn.) earned the win on a planned staff day for the Owls,

working four innings, allowing just two hits and one earned run while working around four walks. Chris Schoen (Worcester, Mass./Doherty) added two scoreless innings of relief before Trevor Edwards (Amherst, Mass.) worked the seventh.

Casey Boudreau (Shrewsbury, Mass.) finished with three hits, including a double, and Maniscalco and Nolan Florence (Chicopee, Mass.) each had a pair of hits.

After a productive week of baseball for the Owls, Nick Martin (Shrewsbury, Mass.) and Nolan Florence (Chicopee, Mass.)

were recognized as MASCAC player of the week and rookie of the week. Martin assisted the Owls to a three-win week against Framingham State, batting 5-for-14 (.357 average) with three doubles, four RBI, three runs scored, and two stolen bases. He recorded a .571 slugging percentage and a .400 on base percentage. He was effective in both doubleheader sets, going 2-for-4 with two doubles, RBI, and a run scored in game one of the conference doubleheader sweep on Thursday. Over the weekend, he went 3-for-7 with two RBI, a run scored, and two

stolen bases in the non-conference doubleheader split against Framingham State.

Florence also put together a productive week, which earned himself MASCAC rookie of the week. Florence was instrumental in all three wins for the Owls, compiling a .500 average (4-8) with two doubles, four RBI, and two runs scored. His game one two RBI double pushed the Owls ahead and jumpstarted an eventual thirteen-run scoring output. He put together a strong .750 slugging percentage as well as a .556 on base percentage.

COMMUNITY

Spring sports to commence after long wait

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – On June 15, 2019, Katelyn Thompson and the Minnechaug Regional High School softball team defeated Pittsfield High School to win the Western Massachusetts Division 1 championship.

Since around that time, spring sports, baseball, softball, lacrosse, tennis, and boys volleyball have not been played.

The COVID-19 pandemic stopped high school sports in their track in early March 2020. Several delays were made to the spring sports season until an unprecedented cancellation took place when in-person school was cancelled for the remainder for the 2019-2020 school year. It robbed Class of 2020 players in all spring sports their final curtain call, and their final opportunity to fight for sectional, individual, and state success in their respective sports.

Next week, beginning on May 5, Granby lacrosse will face Monson with the Mustangs hosting the boys and the Rams hosting the girls. That action will be among the first spring sports to take place in nearly 23 months.

In June, spring sports will participate in sectional tournaments for the first time since March 2020 when the winter sports held their tournaments. Tournaments were not held for the first three seasons of this school year.

The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association sponsored a "Fall 2" season that wrapped up just last week with football action leading the way along with some basketball, indoor track, and girls volleyball among teams that were unable to participate in the first two seasons of the

year. Cheerleaders also had the opportunity to participate in the Fall 2 season.

Practices for spring sports began earlier this week and it is a very quick turnaround to get games underway, with several starting on Wednesday, May 5. This only allows for about seven or eight practice sessions before that date.

But because of unpredictable weather coming out of the winter, spring sports are used to a condensed schedule, especially baseball and softball, which often need more ideal weather in order to play games as soggy and muddy fields can make for more dangerous play.

Sports are scheduled to run from May 5 through the middle of June. Like the previous seasons this school year, most of the sports will play about 12 games. Seasons in the fall and winter ran for about 10 to 12 games, but spring sports often lend themselves to more games under a condensed schedule. Most teams are scheduled for 12 games with some playing more depending individual circumstances.

The more important part is that in addition to a 12-game schedule, teams who qualify will get the chance to participate in tournaments, which will result in more games.

Athletes are still being required to wear masks to participate in sports, though it is possible restrictions could ease as the spring season progresses based on the vaccination effort and currently dropping case numbers. Surrounding states like Connecticut and New Hampshire have also started easing restrictions as well.

Most schedules for the spring have been posted to the MIAA website as well as some school websites.

COMMUNITY

'Pole' takes first race in Granite Series



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Joey "Pole" Polewarczyk Jr. took the win in the first race of the year at Stafford Motor Speedway.

STAFFORD, Conn. — It didn't take long for Joey "Pole" Polewarczyk Jr. to figure out the half-mile of Stafford Motor Speedway on Saturday, April 24. The defending Granite State Pro Stock Series champion took the lead on lap 15 from Eddie MacDonald and never looked back en route to the triumph in the Casagrande Builders 75.

Pole crossed the line over six seconds ahead of hometown favorite Cory Casagrande, with seven-time Seekonk Speedway champion David Darling finishing third.

"What an awesome track, thanks to Stafford for having the Granite State Pro Stock Series," Pole said. "That's one of the best cars I've ever had. It really came in during the race. I loved that there were almost no cautions, and we were able to run our own pace. It feels really good to come down here to Stafford and win."

While Pole pulled away from a 24-car field, only a few cautions slowed the action. Early, it was a caution for a stopped Rick

Duzlak in turn one, then an accident collected both Mike O'Sullivan and Craig Bushey on lap 11. From there, the caution flag was never used again. Pole drove by McDonald and left the rest of the field behind him, with DJ Shaw, Casagrande and Darling battling for second over the final 30 laps.

Casagrande got by Shaw for second on lap 56, with Darling on his bumper — then the two battled for the runner-up spot for the final 20 laps. Casagrande would beat Darling by a small margin at the finish.

MacDonald finished fourth, while former series champion Derek Griffith rallied from an early pit stop to round out the top-five. Devin O'Connell was sixth, followed by Shaw, Gabe Brown, Derek Gluchacki and Angelo Belsito.

Shaw, Griffith and Casagrande won heat races earlier in the day, while Shaw also set fast time in time trials.

The Granite State Pro Stock Series returns to the track on Sunday, May 2 at Monadnock Speed-

way. For more information on the Granite State Pro Stock Series, visit gspss.net and follow the series on social media.

THE FINISH:

1. Joey Pole
2. Cory Casagrande
3. David Darling
4. Eddie MacDonald
5. Derek Griffith
6. Devin O'Connell
7. DJ Shaw
8. Gabe Brown
9. Derek Gluchacki
10. Angelo Belsito
11. Mike Mitchell
12. Bryan Kruzcek
13. Mike Scorzelli
14. Kevin Casper
15. Josh King
16. Tyler Tomassi
17. Alexander Pearl
18. Luke Hinkley
19. Casey Call
20. Bobby Pelland III
21. Adam Gray
22. Craig Bushey
23. Mike O'Sullivan
24. Rick Duzlak



Holyoke Health Care workers Rosie Romero and Noel Flint arrived at the RiverMills Senior Center on April 26 to administer vaccines.



Janice and Robert Arrison fill out paperwork prior to getting vaccinated by Holyoke Health Center employees on April 26.



Holyoke Health Center Chief Medical Officer Dr. Alejandro Esparza-Perez and Executive Director Jay Breines discuss inoculations at the RiverMills Senior Center on Monday morning.

VACCINE from page 1

as COVID-19 testing occurs on the upper level on Monday and Wednesdays, from 8 a.m. until noon.

“We have the testing here, we’re doing the meals and we’re constantly adapting to the new environment and the changes that need to be made,” said Manyak.

The partnership with Holyoke Health Center formed after the city contacted the center to discuss separate matters. The center expressed its willingness to set up shop in the senior center and potentially other sites in the city.

Holyoke Health Center staff are working the clinic, which is open five days each week and on Saturdays. Each weekday, 160 doses are administered; 100 more are administered on Saturdays.

Doses of the vaccine will be split between Chicopee residents and individuals who have booked their appointments through Holyoke Health Center. Mayor John Vieau spoke briefly during Monday morning’s opening, stressing the importance of attaining herd immunity.

“I encourage people to get [vaccinated]. It’s more prevalent than ever,” said Vieau. “This partnership with Holyoke Health Center makes sure that residents, who don’t want to travel out of the city’s limits, can come here to the COA, where they’re comfortable and greeted like they’ve been for many years. That comfort level and personal touch makes a difference.”

On April 26, Vieau stated that he expected the regional vaccine distribution site at the Castle of Knights on Memorial Drive to be operational by week’s end.

Vieau explained that the clinic at the senior center is using “federal doses,” while the Memorial Drive operation will use “the state’s allocation of doses.”

Holyoke Health Center Executive Director Jay Breines was on-hand for the April 26 opening. He praised



the efforts of the Chicopee Mayor’s Office and COA and is confident that the clinic at the senior center will serve residents for the next several months.

“We have access to as much of the vaccine as we need, we have staffing and we have the cooperation of the city all over Chicopee so that [we can operate at] this location and other locations in the future. It’s a wonderful opportunity; this can’t be taken lightly,” said Breines.

Breines acknowledged that Spanish-speaking minorities have not gotten the same access to the vaccine as other residents. He encouraged them to make an ap-



TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY DALTON ZBIERSKI

The lower level of the RiverMills Senior Center will be busy during the coming months, as residents visit the site to get inoculated.

pointment at the clinic on West Main Street. “We want to encourage Latino folks to come in and get vaccines,” said Breines.

Robert and Janice Arrison waited more than two months to get vaccinated at the senior center. Robert Arrison was nervous he would never get the opportunity to get his dose at the center.

“When they said everyone would have to go up to the Knights of Columbus, I was a little bit upset, so this is great. They’re unbelievable here; everything they do for us. The way our senior center is coordinating things, we trust them,” he said.

To schedule an appointment, one can call the RiverMills Senior Center at 413-534-3698.

Dalton Zbierski is a Staff Writer, who can be reached at dzbierski@turley.com.

STATE BOWL from page 1

With strong performances at the state competition, Bellamy Middle School students Piper Bajor, Juliana Gadouas, Allison Wenzell, Ella Anthachai, Natalie Irish, Veda Patel and Alexis Wojcik advanced to the international competition, set to occur virtually between June 9 and 14.

“You can’t sleep on these kids; they’re impressive,” said Burke, a REACH teacher at Dupont Middle School. “We have a great bunch of kids. They’re very dedicated and very hard-working.”

Students participating in the State Bowl were given a topic to study six weeks prior to the competition. Past topics have included transhumanism, propaganda, nutrition, disparities in education, and this year’s material proved to be equally challenging.

“This year, we’ve had human environmental impact, wearable technology, youth in sports and, currently, we’re looking at personalized medicine,” said Burke.

Leading into the State Bowl, participants were given a short-story that takes place at least 30 years into the future. Students were asked to view the future world through the eyes of an individual facing struggles or encountering situations related to the topics at hand.



PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY MICHAEL BURKE.

Maeve Carter is a participant in Chicopee Public Schools’ problem-solving program. State bowl 3

To score well, students must identify the challenges and develop solutions. The strongest solution is converted into an action plan that essentially serves as a sales pitch, explaining why the solution best suits the problem.

“The underlying problem has to have five components; a key verb phrase, a purpose, a conditional phrase, parameters, solutions have to be written a certain way, challenges need to be written a certain way and the action plan needs to be written a certain way. That’s how it’s scored,” said Burke.

Traditionally, the State Bowl is held on the campus of Clark University in Worcester. Burke was inspired by the resilience displayed by his students, as they adapted to the digital format.

“It says a lot about these young people, their dedication to this particular



Multiple Chicopee REACH students problem-solved virtually during the state bowl, which recently concluded.

craft,” said Burke. “They see how learning through problem-solving is not only problem-solving; they see how it could help them down the road in a career if they want to be an engineer or a doctor or a business person or a lawyer. These are skills that will transfer to these eventual vocations that they pursue.”

Burke expressed gratitude that the district supports the program. He noted that schools, who don’t provide similar opportunities, often lose their most talented students to private schools, charter schools or school choice.

Burke has served as a REACH teacher for a decade and continues to count his blessing. He feels fortunate to be in the presence of students, who go above and beyond consistently.

“I love the job; I love the challenge,” said Burke. “You have to keep students moving, keep them active and keep them engaged. It’s very rewarding.”

Dalton Zbierski is a Staff Writer, who can be reached at dzbierski@turley.com.

SSO names John Anz interim director

SPRINGFIELD — Springfield Symphony Orchestra is in the midst of transition, following the announcement that Executive Director Susan Beaudry would leave the organization effective April 23, in pursuit of entrepreneurial interests.

Development Director John Anz will fill serve as interim executive director, according to SSO Board President Robyn Newhouse.

“We appreciate all that Susan Beaudry has done on behalf of the

Symphony and for the arts in our region,” Newhouse said in a press release. “Susan has made valuable contributions during her six years leading the Symphony, first as development director and then as executive director. She is a strong leader and will be sorely missed,” Newhouse said.

Beaudry said she will pursue a passion in the wine industry.

“I will be leaving my position with the Symphony in the good hands of the Board and John Anz,” she said. “I was pleased to

be a part of the most recent strategic planning process that I believe will lead to the re-emergence of the SSO, and the goal of providing classical music in the region. As the arts and live performances re-emerge from the pandemic, I am optimistic the SSO will continue to fulfill its mission.”

Anz joined the SSO as Development Director in 2019, and has a 20-year career in development that includes independent schools, the YMCA and in music and the arts. Prior to joining the SSO Anz

worked as director of development at Berkshire Hills Music Academy in South Hadley and is a former board member of the Northampton Community Music Center.

Anz said, “These are challenging and exciting times for live music and symphony orchestras everywhere. So, it is both an honor and privilege to be asked to serve the SSO in this capacity at this moment. I look forward to working with all of our community leaders, cultural and business partners, and other key players to

continue to move this cherished institution forward as we look toward a bright future, and beyond.”

According to Newhouse, the strategic planning process and the choosing of a new executive director will figure largely in how and when the Symphony meets its mission of engaging the public around classical music performances. No time frame has been finalized on the selection of a new leader, she said.

PUBLIC NOTICES

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD21P0711EA
Estate of: Jeanne T Blazej
Also known as:
Mary Jane Teresa Blazej,
Jeanne Theresa Blazej
Date of Death: 03/25/2021
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by: **Suzanne DiMenno** of Westfield, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Suzanne DiMenno** of Westfield, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in an **unsupervised** administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 05/18/2021.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter

relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: April 20, 2021
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
04/30/2021

**SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES
Under G.L. c.255 Sec. 39A**
Notice is hereby given by **Interstate Towing, Inc.** pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, section 39A, that on **April 30, 2021** at Interstate Towing, Inc the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles.

2001 YAMAHA YJ50
VIN: JYASA17A01A001442
MARIO NAVONE
49 SOUTH WORTH ST #3
WEST SPRINGFIELD, MA 01089

2003 CHEVROLET SILVERADO
VIN: 1GCJK39U43E313727
SARA BOUCHER
25 HALE ST
WEST SPRINGFIELD, MA 01089

2004 HONDA ACCORD
VIN: 2HGES16564H608195
HECTOR FRED-LOPEZ
70 NEW BRIDGE ST
WEST SPRINGFIELD, MA 01089

2005 TOYOTA CAMRY
VIN: 4T1BE32K45U100737
ANNIE KNIGHT
PO BOX 184
HURLEYVILLE, NY 12747

2006 CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY
VIN: 2A4GP44RX6R742022
JENNIFER MCTIER
119 ASHLEY AVE APT 16
SPRINGFIELD, MA 01105

2006 HONDA ACCORD
VIN: 1HGCM56836A103932
MATTHEW PARDEE
70 RODNEY ST
WORCESTER, MA 01605

2007 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE
VIN: 1J8GR48K17C514636
GARY HALL
14 SYLVAN DR
WESTFIELD, MA 01085

2013 FORD F150
VIN: 1FTFX1EFXD07591
TITAN ROOFING, INC
200 TAPLEY ST
SPRINGFIELD, MA 01104

2016 VOLVO VN VNL

VIN: 4V4NC9EH8GN939155
KGZ TRANSPORT
16048 S PEPPERMILL TRL
GLENN, IL 60491

2019 NISSAN ALTIMA
VIN: 1N4BL4BV4KC249067
FRANCIS KENNY
35 CROSS ST
EVERETT, MA 02149
04/16, 04/23, 04/30/2021

**SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES
Under G.L. c.255 Sec. 39A**
Notice is hereby given by Interstate Towing, Inc. pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, section 39A, that on **May 14, 2021** at Interstate Towing, Inc the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles.

2021 AMIGO WARRIOR
VIN: LLOTCKPF3MG000362
UNKNOWN
04/30, 05/07, 05/14/2021

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
HAMPDEN, Div.
Probate & Family Court Dept.
HD21E0004PP1**

To Laurie A Lemay of Deer Isle, Maine as a Joint Tenant and to all other persons interested.

A petition has been presented to said Court by Keith M Lemay and Wayne J Lemay, both of Chicopee in the County of Hampden representing that they hold as joint tenants an undivided part or share of land lying in Chicopee, in the County of Hampden, setting forth that they desire that all of said land on Parcel 1 at 773 McKinstry Avenue, Chicopee, Massachusetts may be sold at private sale for not less than Two Hundred Sixty Thousand (\$260,000.00) Dollars and all of said land on Parcel 2 at 783 McKinstry Avenue, Chicopee, Massachusetts may be sold at private sale for not less than One Hundred Ninety-five Thousand (\$195,000.00) Dollars and praying that partition may be made of all the land aforesaid according to law, and to that end that a commissioner be appointed to make such partition and be ordered to make sale and conveyance of all, or any part of said land which the

Court finds cannot be advantageously divided either at private sale or public auction, and be ordered to distribute the net proceeds thereof after full adjudication of the equitable claims contained in said petition and supplemental memorandum filed with the Court.

If you desire to object thereto you or your attorney should file a written appearance in said Court at Springfield before ten o'clock in the forenoon on the **18th day of June, 2021**, the return day of this citation.

Witness, **BARBARA M. HYLAND**, Esquire, First Justice of said Court, this eighth day of April, 2021.

Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate & Family Court
04/23, 04/30, 05/07/2021

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD21P0747EA
Estate of: Adella J Ukleja
Also known as:
Adele J Ukleja
Date of Death: 03/22/2021
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Paul S Urban** of Westford, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Paul S Urban** of Westford, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in an **unsupervised** administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 05/24/2021.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objec-

tion if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: April 26, 2021
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
04/30/2021

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD21C0059CA
In the matter of:
John Gary Williams
aka: Jon-Gary Williams
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME**

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **John Gary Williams, aka: Jon-Gary Williams, of Chicopee, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:
Jon-Gary Williams
IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 05/14/2021.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: April 16, 2021
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
04/30/2021

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD21C0059CA
In the matter of:
John Gary Williams
aka: Jon-Gary Williams
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME**

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **John Gary Williams, aka: Jon-Gary Williams, of Chicopee, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:
Jon-Gary Williams
IMPORTANT NOTICE
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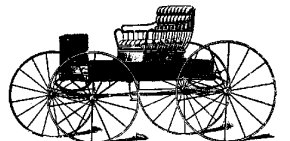
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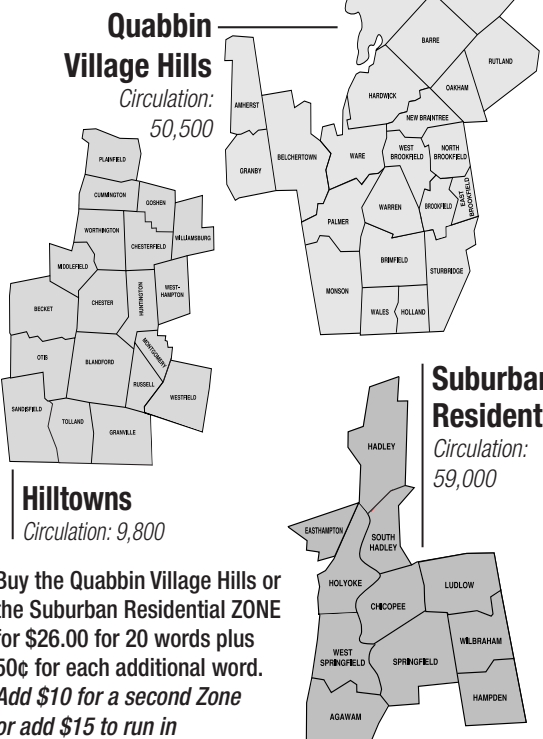
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29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
33 Base Price \$32.50	34 Base Price \$33.00	35 Base Price \$33.50	36 Base Price \$34.00
37 Base Price \$34.50	38 Base Price \$35.00	39 Base Price \$35.50	40 Base Price \$36.00

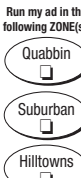
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Masks not required outdoors per reopening guidance

BOSTON – Effective April 30, masks and face coverings will no longer be required in most outdoor settings, the Baker-Polito Administration recently announced.

As part of the new guidance, face coverings will only be required in outdoor settings in situations where physical distancing cannot be maintained or as part of other sector-specific guidance.

Face coverings will still be required at all times in indoor public places. Face coverings will also continue to be required at all times at events, whether held indoors or outdoors and whether held in a public space or private home, except for when eating or drinking.

At smaller gatherings in private homes, face coverings are recommended but not required. The \$300 fine as an enforcement mechanism will be eliminated, the administration said.

Additionally, the administration announced the state will reopen some outdoor Phase 4, Ste 2 industries beginning Monday, May 10. Further reopening will continue

May 29 and Aug. 1.

Effective May 10, large venues such as indoor and outdoor stadiums, arenas and ballparks will be permitted to increase capacity to 25%. Additionally, amusement parks, theme parks and outdoor water parks will be permitted to operate at 50% capacity.

Road races and other large, outdoor organized amateur or professional group athletic events will be permitted to take place with staggered starts after submitting safety plans to a local board of health or the Department of Public Health. Youth and adult amateur sports tournaments will be allowed for moderate and high risk sports.

Singing will be permitted indoors with strict distancing requirements at performance venues, restaurants, event venues and other businesses.

Subject to public health and vaccination data, gathering limits will increase to 200 people indoors and 250 people outdoors for event venues, and public and private settings, effective May 29.

Street festivals, parades and agricultural festivals will be permitted at 50% of their previous capacity after submitting safety plans. Bars, beer gardens, breweries, wineries and distilleries will be subject to restaurant rules with seated service only, 90-minute limits and no dance floors.

Also May 29, restaurant guidance will be updated to eliminate the requirement that food be served with alcohol and to increase maximum table size to 10, subject to public health and vaccination data.

According to the Baker-Polito Administration, dance and night clubs, saunas, fitness centers and health clubs, indoor water parks and ball pits will be permitted to open Aug. 1. The administration said industry restrictions and capacity limits are expected to be lifted, with businesses encouraged to use best practices.

For complete guidance and more information regarding COVID-19 in Massachusetts, visit mass.gov.

Valley Music Showcase to take place virtually next month

SOUTHAMPTON – The Valley Music Showcase, a mini music festival and live juried music competition, will make its virtual return next month, featuring a diverse slate of local musicians.

Produced by Mark Sherry, the event features five bands from Western Massachusetts, northern Connecticut and southern Vermont competing for roughly \$1,000 in gift certificates and other prizes. Grand prizes include free studio recording time at Northfire Studios, in Amherst, custom website design and photo shoot with Cider House Media, in Easthampton, and more. This year's showcase will take place Friday, May 28, from 7 to 10:45 p.m. on Zoom, Facebook Live and YouTube Live.

Contestants for the showcase are Gracie Day and the Phantom Limbs, of Southbridge; No Lens, of Greenfield; Johnny Cab, of Hartford; Driving Wheel, from Western Mass.; and GoldFlame, of Belchertown. Guest judges include Easthampton Mayor Nicole LaChapelle, WECS FM D.J. Mark Ramone, Stevie Converse of WCCH Radio and Sheryl Hunter, a music writer for the Greenfield Recorder.

Each band will perform a 30-minute set with no live audience at Glendale Ridge Vineyards in Southamptn. To view the performances, log in via Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89313620504> or watch via Facebook Live at facebook.com/valleymusicshowcase.

For more information, contact Sherry at 413-374-7671 or email valleymusicshowcase@gmail.com.

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THE HAMPDEN POLICE DEPARTMENT is now accepting applications for an open police officer position. The deadline to apply is May 14, 2021. Please visit www.hampden-police.com for more information.

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